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sections on orthography and orthoepy, etymology, and syntax. The essential principles of the language are set forth with great clearness and with sufficient fullness, while the exceptions and peculiar forms receive due attention. While the work of previous scholars has been subjected to a critical estimate in all parts of the grammar, the syntax manifests especially the evidence of independent and careful examination of the phenomena of the language. The latter is divided into five chapters: (1) The Use of the Verbal Forms; (2) Verbal Government; (3) The Combination of Nouns; (4) The Simple Sentence; (5) Combinations of Sentences and the Connection of Sentences (*Satzgefüge*).

The literature is tolerably complete.

In the paradigms the various prefixes and affixes of verbs are first given, then follow: (1) the *Pē'al* and *Pē'il* of the strong verb (omitting forms not found in the text), (2) a paradigm of sample forms from all the stems, samples sufficient to make the inflection clear, (3) sample forms of גּ gut. and חּ gut. verbs, (4) sample forms of פָּ, פִּי, פִּי, פִּי, and נָפִי verbs, (5) separate paradigms of verbs עָ, לָ, עָ, עָ, (6) a table of pronouns and pronominal suffixes, (7) the verb with suffixes, (8) nouns, (9) nouns with suffixes, (10) a most useful table of prepositions with suffixes.

The text is accompanied with footnotes, giving, (1) brief explanations of the happy changes introduced into the passages, and, (2) references to the grammar. The glossary contains the best results of modern lexicography, including many derivations from the Iranian tongues, given on the competent authority of Dr. C. F. Andreas, of Berlin.

For beginners this work will prove by far the most useful help now in use.

CHARLES RUFUS BROWN.

THE NEWTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE SEPTUAGINT UPON THE PESHITTA PSALTER.

Dissertation submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University Faculty of Philosophy, Columbia College, by J. FREDERIC BERG. New York (Printed by W. Drugulin, Leipzig, Germany), 1895. Pp. viii + 162, 8vo.

It is a question how far a Doctor's dissertation is legitimate subject of criticism in a journal of theology. The interest of the candidate is

to show that he has improved his opportunities; the interest of the faculty is to ascertain whether his acquirements are such as to authorize his promotion. The reviewer is precluded from judging such a work simply as a contribution to theological science. It is rather as evidence of the sort of work done in the universities, that it must be judged. The book is divided into two parts, one of which treats of the external evidence of the influence of the LXX upon the P^šittâ; the other of the internal evidence. In the former we receive, first, a history of the question with a statement of its importance. Then follows an account of the version which is the main subject of inquiry; next, a discussion of the literary and ecclesiastical standing of the LXX. In Part II we have the detailed comparison of the texts. Three appendices give: Quotations in the Syriac New Testament from the P^šittâ Old Testament; Tabulation of the Variants of the several [Syriac] MSS. from the text of Lee; and, a List of the Books Consulted.

An inquiry of this kind, to be useful to the scholar, should confine itself to a single well-defined subject. The danger of the young author is that he will make his field too broad, and from this danger Dr. Berg has not wholly escaped. His subject is the Influence of the LXX upon the P^šittâ Psalter. What we want to know is whether such an influence is discoverable, and what is its extent. In order to answer these questions we need above all things to know what is the original text of the Syriac and what is the original text of the Greek. The answer to these two questions is by no means so easy as one might suppose. If once we have these texts the real question comes into view. Suppose we have the original text of G and the original text of S and suppose further that they agree in a particular reading against the Massoretic text. It does not yet follow that the agreement is due to the influence of one upon the other. It is always supposable that S had a Hebrew text which agreed with the text from which G was translated. It is evident that to prove this or to disprove it is of the greatest consequence. As the author very well says, the Hebrew MSS. "are all descended from the same archetype." The important question is whether the Syriac will help us to correct the errors in this archetype.

The author seems not to have had this question clearly in mind. He concludes indeed that the basis of the Syriac Psalter was the Massoretic text, and that the translators were *influenced* by the LXX. But does that account for the whole of the Syriac? This is what we want

to know, and what we do not decisively ascertain. To help us in answering this question, it would have been better to discuss minutely the character of the various readings than to have given so much general knowledge.

However, it may be unfair in judging a man for what he has done, to find fault with him for not doing what he did not try to do. What the author before us tried to do he seems to have done fairly well.

LAKEWOOD, N. J.

HENRY PRESERVED SMITH.

SEPTUAGINTASTUDIEN, II. VON EBERHARD NESTLE. Wissenschaftliche Beilage zum Programm des Königlichen Gymnasiums in Ulm. Ulm, 1896. Pp. 22, 4to.

THE first part of the *Septuagintastudien* was published in 1886. It gave a history of the Sixtine edition of the LXX. This (the second) part is largely an appendix to that. Its immediate occasion was a remark in the public press concerning Professor Nestle's expected collaboration in the new critical edition. A correspondent of the newspaper in question had expressed the hope that Professor Nestle's criticism "may not turn out to be too much in the spirit of the Evangelical Alliance." The remark shows so ludicrous a misapprehension of what is meant by a critical edition of the LXX, that our author thinks some instruction necessary. He points out that Sebastian Frank, as long ago as 1531, was better informed concerning the Greek version of the Old Testament than is the modern German journalist. After quoting at some length from Frank, or rather from Sebastian Fischer who copies Frank, Professor Nestle gives an account of the well-known letter of Aristæus with a popular sketch of the history of the LXX.

The second part of the programme is occupied with notes of various kinds, appendices and corrections to the first half of the *Studien*, a description of the phototypic reproduction of the Codex Vaticanus, remarks on the different scribes of the MS., and remarks, palæographical and other, connected with the same subject. In regard to the character of the Vaticanus Nestle is inclined to side with Professor Moore (*Judges*, p. xlvi not lvi as given by Nestle) rather than with Cornill in his estimate of its text.

The pamphlet will be read with interest and profit by every Old Testament student.

LAKEWOOD, N. J.

HENRY PRESERVED SMITH.